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President de Gaulle's Visit
Washington, April 22-26, 1960

Suggested Talking Points for President
(based on position paper)

GERMANY AND BERLIN

1. Western Powers are reasonably well prepared for Summit discussions of Germany and Berlin, although it is difficult to see how significant progress can be achieved.

2. Khrushchev visit to France was useful since de Gaulle was able to reemphasize in calm but convincing fashion that West will not be intimidated by Soviet threats.

3. Our immediate objective is to deter Soviet action against Berlin; this is essentially tactical problem.

4. It is unlikely Soviets can be deterred by mere threat of force, for they are aware of opportunity for creeping harassment without real risk of war.

5. We therefore believe we should seek to deter Soviet action through:

a. Interim arrangement which might make minor or procedural changes but would maintain essence of our position in Berlin; or

b. Continuation of Berlin discussions in another forum on basis of directive issued at Summit.

6. We should appreciate de Gaulle's views on probable development of Summit discussion of Germany and Berlin.



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